

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending. An Office Action mailed November 3, 2005 rejected Claims 1-18. By way of an Amendment dated April 3, 2006, Applicant amended Claims 11 and 14-18, and added new Claims 19-23. An office communication dated June 22, 2006 stated that the 4/3/2006 reply was not fully responsive to the prior Office Action. This paper will serve to remedy the deficiencies in the previously submitted Amendment.

The office communication states “the reply failed to present arguments pointing out the specific distinctions believed to render the newly presented claims 19-23 patentable over applied references.”

Claims 19, 20, and 22 are patentable over Anderson for at least the same reasons Claims 6-9 and 18 are patentable over Anderson: no support platform with channels is needed, instead the channels are formed by the mat, or by the interaction of the mat and the surface to be treated, or in the case of Claim 22, “a plurality of overlapping strands forming a grid.” Claims 19, 20, and 22 are patentable over Wenander for at least the same reasons Claims 6-9, 11-15, and 18 are patentable over Wenander: the claimed systems do not require the extra elements that are required by Wenander. As Claim 21 depends from Claim 20, Claim 21 is patentable for the same reasons Claim 20 is patentable. Similarly, Claim 23 depends from Claim 22, so Claim 23 is patentable for the same reasons Claim 22 is patentable.

The office communication states “The applicant also failed to point out where the support can be found in the originally filed specification for the amended and newly filed claims.”

Claim 11 – “at least one integrally formed manifold” – at least p. 29, lines 18-26, p. 30, lines 1-11; and FIGURE 12.

Claim 14 – “multiple vacuum mats” – at least p. 25, line 5 to p. 32, line 12; and FIGURES 11-14.

Claim 15 – “at least a first and a second vacuum mat” – see Claim 14.


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Claims 19-21 – see Claim 14.

Claims 22-23 – at least p. 23, line 22 to p. 24, line 8; and FIGURES 6C and 6D.

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CONCLUSION

The above Remarks with the previous Response to Office Action are now fully responsive to the Office Action. Additionally, all of the remaining Claims stand in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the Applicant's attorney at the address and telephone numbers set forth above.

Respectfully submitted,

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